



## WORKING WITH VICTIMS IN THE MILITARY




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## DISCLAIMER

- This presenter has a great deal of knowledge and experience in this area – but is not an official spokesperson for the Department of Defense
- This presentation is intended to be a discussion of the many programs (far too many to be adequately addressed in this presentation) and provide up-to-date information on where we are and where we are going
- We are here to inform, discuss, and collaborate

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## QUOTE

- “This is one experience that one does not plan for, is not prepared for, has no knowledge of who or where to turn.”

--a victim

President's Task Force on Victims of Crime Final Report,  
December 1982

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## MILITARY PROGRAMS

- For decades all military services have had services and programs in place to properly respond to and intervene in family violence
- Although the primary objective of each discipline may vary, the guiding principle for all remains the same – to treat each victim with sensitivity, dignity, and respect during the pursuit of justice.
  - Legal
  - Law enforcement
  - Commanders
  - Family Advocacy Programs
  - Community collaboration
  - True multidisciplinary approach

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## LEGAL

- 24 Special Victims Prosecutors
  - 2 LTC, 22 Senior Captains and Majors
  - Been both Prosecutor and Defense Attorney
  - Experienced with family violence cases
- Installation victim/witness liaison




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## LAW ENFORCEMENT

- Training
  - DVIT
  - CAPIT
  - SVU
- Investigations
  - LGBT incidents
  - 2 Crime Scenes
  - FETI
  - Restricted/Unrestricted reporting




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## Conventional Interview Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How



In a recent study, it was found that the average police interview had 3 open-ended questions and with an average of only 1-second pauses between each question. Most detectives interrupted responses to open-ended questions after 7.5 seconds with an average of 4 interruptions per response. Not one of the interviews studied had a victim that was allowed to complete an uninterrupted response

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## VICTIM BEST INTERVIEW PRACTICES

- Sensitivity and empathy are the keys to a successful victim interview
- Be patient
- Be thorough
- Go beyond "He said, She said"
- Build a case in depth
- Don't stop asking questions until you can in some ways experience what the victim has experienced
- Give the victim time to process and work through the trauma
- Provide the victim with a materials to "journal" their experience

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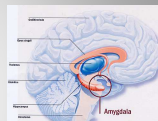
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## A PARADIGM SHIFT

### Forensic Experiential Trauma Interview

- Acknowledge their trauma/pain/difficult situation
  - What are you able to tell me about your experience?
    - Tell me more about ... or that...
  - What was your thought process during this experience?
  - What are you able to remember about...the 5 senses
  - What were your reactions to this experience
    - Physically
    - Emotionally
  - What can't you forget about your experience?
  - Clarify other information and details...after you facilitate all you can about the "experience"
  - Closing




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## THESE ?'s ARE YOUR BEST FRIENDS!!

☐ Appropriate Open-Ended Questions:

- ☐ What did you do next?
- ☐ Help me understand?
- ☐ Tell me what you were thinking at that point?
- ☐ Tell me what you were feeling when he did that?
- ☐ Are you able to remember
- ☐ Are you able to describe

ABLE, ABLE, ABLE...the best four letter words in  
Your interview vocabulary

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## THESE ?'s ARE YOUR BEST FRIENDS!!

- ☐ This type of questioning will provide the victim an opportunity to talk about thoughts, feelings, and experiences during the assault
- ☐ This will help us understand better the reality of the situation and overcome most, if not all, challenges to credibility

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## VICTIM INTERVIEW PRACTICES

- The capacity to hear about trauma (rape/DV) does not come easily or all at once
- It must be developed
- Developing this capacity requires
  - An active willing, and empathetic extension of the self into areas of human failure and malevolence
  - Practice

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**WHO DOES THE VICTIM REALLY SEE / WHO DOES THE PANEL SEE ?**



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**DV & Sexual Assault Restricted Reporting**

- Assists those who don't want an official investigation
- Provides services
- Builds a bridge of trust
- Restricted reporting avenues
- Exceptions

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**TRANSITIONAL COMPENSATION**

- SM has been on active duty more than 30 days and
  - Separated by court martial sentence or administratively separated if the basis includes a dependent-abuse offense
  - Must have been a family member to SM when the offense occurred
  - Allowed to maintain full military privileges while receiving TC.

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## COMPENSATION

- Dependency and indemnity (DIC) rates
- Amounts (Dec. 2012)
  - Spouse: \$1215
  - Child(ren) w/spouse: \$301
  - Child only: \$513
  - Children (2): \$738
  - Children (3): \$963
  - Children (3+): \$963 + Approx \$183

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## COMMANDERS

- Training
- Unit SHARP
- MPO
- Investigation
- Offender Accountability

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## FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAMS






When Johnnie and Jane Come  
Marching Home...

Again...and again...and again...

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## FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAMS

- SARC
- Victim Advocates
- Prevention programs
- Intervention programs and training
  - Military One Source

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## Military OneSource

Not your source? Select a different source. Log Out | Contact Admin | Contact Us | Help | 1-800-342-9647

A 24/7 Resource for Military Members, Spouses & Families

1.800.342.9647 or call (602) 616-1000

What the Army OneSource web site

WHAT CAN MILITARY ONESOURCE DO FOR YOU?

Army OneSource

Call 1.800.342.9647 for more information. See more about Military OneSource.

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## FAMILY ADVOCACY

- Military Family Life Consultants
- Chaplains (battlemind, family life chaplains)
- New Parent Support (Interactive new father)
- Home Visitor Nurse
- Exceptional Family Members Program
- Respite Care
- Foster Care
- Parent Night Out

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## FAMILY ADVOCACY

- Family team building
- Lending closets
- Community service programs (financial readiness, relocation assistance, team building, resiliency training)

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## SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

- Family Advocacy
  - SARC
  - Victim Advocates
- Medical Care (physical, mental health)

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## COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

- Memorandums of Understanding
  - Courts
  - Law Enforcement
  - Shelters
  - Children's Services

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## TRUE MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH

- Case Review Committee

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## CASE REVIEW COMMITTEE

- Chief, Social Work Services (Chairperson)
- \* SJA
- \* Family Advocacy Program Manager
- \* ASAP
- \* Pediatrician
- \* Case Worker
- \* Installation Chaplain
- \* Provost Marshal (representative)
- \* A-CID/OSI/NCIS/MC-CID (representative)




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## CASE REVIEW COMMITTEE

- Psychiatrist and Psychologist
- \* CDS Coordinator
- \* Dentac Commander
- \* Community Health Nurse
- \* Unit Commanders
- \* Youth Services Director
- \* Victim Advocate
- \* Civilian Supervisors
- \* School Officials




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## CASE REVIEW COMMITTEE

- \* Assess reports of abuse for potential problems
- \* Obtain psychological evaluations
- \* Report case to Army Central Registry
- \* Open/Close case based on abuse
- \* Report child abuse to Child Protective Services
- \* Ensure unit commanders are notified

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## CASE REVIEW COMMITTEE

- \* Refer family in treatment to gaining installation
- \* Consult with unit commander on corrective measures
- \* Ensure command is advised of continuing status
- \* Identify cases requiring special precautions
- \* Ensure each case is substantiated / unsubstantiated

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## SUMMARY

- We maintain and will continue to enhance a multidisciplinary approach to all forms of violence including family violence and sexual assaults
- We will continue to develop policies, programs, and procedures to enhance our response to victims
- We will continue to do all in our power to build bridges of trust and provide the prevention, intervention, and services our soldiers, airmen, sailors, marines, family members, and civilians deserve
- We solicit your comments, ideas, and support

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Thank You

QUESTIONS

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**PROGRAMS ON FAMILY VIOLENCE**

- Programs within DOD that assist victims of family violence in various ways
- We can always do more
- There have been many new policy changes and additions to enhance our response to family violence to further build bridges of trust with victims of family violence to assist them and to build additional partnerships with professionals who respond to all forms of family violence

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